

## Chemical Right to Know Fact Sheet Series

# The TRI Persistent Bioaccumulators Project

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The TRI persistent bioaccumulative toxics (PBT) project comprises several activities with the overall goal of obtaining effective reporting of PBTs to TRI and effective dissemination of TRI PBT information to the public. This activity supports EPA PBT activities agency-wide.

Toxic chemicals which persist and bioaccumulate in the environment are more commonly referred to as persistent bioaccumulative toxics or PBTs. To date, with the exception of facilities subject to the alternate threshold exemption, EPA has applied an across the board reporting threshold for all listed chemicals. However, as the TRI program has evolved over time and as communities identify areas of special concern, thresholds and other aspects of the EPCRA section 313 reporting requirements may need to be modified to assure the collection and dissemination of relevant, topical information and data. Towards that end, EPA believes it would be appropriate to increase the utility of TRI to the public by adding a number of chemicals that persist and bioaccumulate in the environment to the section 313 list and by lowering the reporting thresholds for these types of toxic chemicals. Toxic chemicals that persist and bioaccumulate are of particular concern because they remain in the environment for significant periods of time and concentrate in the organisms exposed to them. These persistent bioaccumulative toxic chemicals can have serious human health and environmental effects resulting from low levels of release and exposure. Lowering the reporting thresholds for PBT chemicals would insure that the public has important information on the releases and other waste management practices that involve these types of chemicals, that would not be reported under the current thresholds.

EPA plans, by the end of 1998, to publish a proposed rule that will include the following:

- (1) proposed persistence and bioaccumulation criteria for EPCRA section 313;
- (2) the proposed addition of certain persistent and bioaccumulative toxic chemicals to the EPCRA section 313 toxic chemical list; and
- 3) proposed lower “manufacture,” “process,” and “otherwise use” thresholds for the chemicals the Agency has identified as persistent and bioaccumulative.

